

**To:** Fritz, Matthew[Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov]  
**From:** McGrath, Shaun  
**Sent:** Wed 9/16/2015 10:34:05 PM  
**Subject:** DRMS Document  
[\[Untitled\].pdf](#)

Matt,

As discussed.

Shaun

Attached is a 2009 DRMS document that states “A future project at the site may attempt to cooperatively open the Level 7 Old Portal in an effort to alleviate the potential for an unstable increase in mine pool head within the Gold King workings.”

The Animas River Stakeholder Group meeting minutes can be found here:

<http://www.animasriverstakeholdersgroup.org/page8.html>

The project was discussed often at ARSG meetings, in which EPA, CDPHE and DRMS all participated. For example, an excerpt from Feb 20, 2014:

Red & Bonita – Steve Way gave a powerpoint presentation on the underground investigations of the Red & Bonita from last summer. He gave a number of reasons why he thought putting in a bulkhead would be a good next step. At certain times of year, the Red & Bonita is the largest mining-related source of metals in the Animas Basin. (At other times, the Gold King #7 is the biggest loader.) It emits close to 300 gpm. While most people believe there will be some seepage around the bulkhead and increased drainage may be forced out nearby mines or springs, if the reduction of metal loading is as much as possibly 50%, that would be a positive development. If there are large unintended consequences from the bulkhead installation, a pipe and valve through the bulkhead could be opened, and the situation could be returned to the pre-bulkhead status. The bulkhead and pipe would also provide a collection point if at some point it was decide to treat the drainage as opposed to damming it. There was also discussion about installing plumbing behind the bulkhead to allow for mine pool treatment if needed once the bulkhead was in place. EPA said they could fund the bulkhead. Engineering studies could be

done this summer with the bulkhead installation coming in 2015. In addition, if possible, EPA would like to open up the Gold King #7 level to see what is going on inside with regards to water inflow to the workings before installing the bulkhead in the R & B. Overall, the group supported both ideas.